



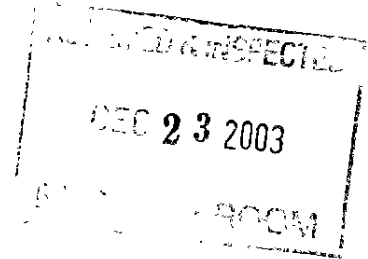
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE CO., INC.

Your One-Stop Communications, Information and Entertainment Source

ORIGINAL

December 16, 2003



Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re *Ex Parte* Communication
RM-10822 / CC Docket 96-45, *Western Wireless Petition to Eliminate Rate of Return Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to notify you that on December 16, 2003, Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc. ("Rural") sent letters to Commissioners Michael K. Powell, Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Jonathan S. Adelstein, Michael J. Copps and Kevin J. Martin to outline issues raised in the proceeding identified above.

The purpose of the attached letter is to address and clarify statements contained in Attachment A to the above Petition regarding the Kansas "case study" that purports to represent certain issues that arose during Rural's audit by the Kansas Corporation Commission. The position Rural expressed is that given the misrepresentation of the facts in Western Wireless's Attachment A, the Commission should not rely on this information during the proceeding.

Please include this notice and attachment in the Docket of the proceeding referenced above.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Sevier
Chief Executive Officer

LC/lkw
Enc

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